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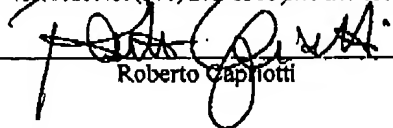
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Amendment and Response (18 pgs.)

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/724,863  
Applicant : Akkary, Haitham H.  
Filed : December 2, 2003  
TC/A.U. : 2186  
Examiner : Krofcheck, Michael C.

Docket No. : 42390.P17876

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Confirmation No.: 1592

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May 15, 2006  
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Roberto Capriotti

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

[Signature] May 15, 2006  
Signature Date

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 15, 2006, with the three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 15, 2006, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and/or remarks.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 11 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 16 of this paper.